

MINUTES OF YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 8, 2009

Attendees:

Alicia Sillars	Meghan Moore
Deb Ritchie	Diane Barston
Mackenzie Begley	Annie Maguire
Kendall Kyritz	Jared Kindy
Geoffrey Ball	Karen Brennan
Linny Strother	Jo-Anne Sawitsky

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. Minutes from last month's meeting were read. Geoff Ball made a motion to approve, seconded by Deb Ritchie.

Family Concerts: 6/10, 6/17, 6/24. The Family concerts were a success, although attendance was lower than expected because of the weather. Despite the lower attendance, the concerts broke even. The biggest turn-out was on 6/17 when Lou Del Bianco performed. It was a beautiful evening and approximately 150 people attended. The weather was threatening for the Sandcastle Contest on 6/24, but 7 teams (approximately 30 people) entered. About 40 people stayed afterwards for the concert by Joe Delio. No admission fee was charged.

Movie at the Beach: "Madagascar 2" was originally scheduled to be shown on 7/1. However, due to rain, it was postponed to 7/15. In the event of rain, the movie will be shown in the library.

Summer Camp: The first couple of weeks have been challenging because of the rain. Registration for the second session is complete with Camp Mather full, Camp Holmes at 97 students and Camp Hindley at 38 students. The Middle School Summer Program is also full with 30 students for every session.

Carnival Days: Jo-Anne Sawitsky gave a brief review of the Darien Days Carnival which will be held 7/9, 7/10, and 7/11. Bracelets will be sold for \$20 for unlimited rides on the amusements. There will also be food, a caricaturist, bingo, miniature golf, and entertainment by local bands. Alicia suggested Dave's Cast of Characters as a possibility

for next year's Carnival. Jo-Anne said no decision has been made about a Carnival next year.

TOPS Programs: Dates for the 2009-2010 TOPS programs have not been confirmed. The movie at the beach will be shown on Friday 9/4. The movie, "*Paul Blart, Mall Cop*" was recommended as a possibility.

Halloween Window Painting Contest: Will be held on 10/24. Invitations will be sent to teams that participated last year in mid-September. The contest will be limited to 50 windows/50 teams.

Commission Vacancies: There will be 4 freshmen and 3 sophomore vacancies on the Commission next year. Alicia will send out an invitation to current Commission members to be forwarded to any interested youth.

Human Services Planning Commission Meeting: A meeting of the Human Services Planning Committee was held on 7/8. The Committee agreed that it needs to involve youth. The committee would like to put together a group of youth representing diverse backgrounds and volunteer organizations. The committee would help educate Darien's youth about the survey results and how to engage them in building assets. This group may try to get together in the next few weeks. Otherwise, a meeting will be scheduled for late August/early September. Then, at a later date, the HSPC will talk more seriously about how a Youth Council might be formed to serve our town. (Some youth from the Planning Committee may serve on the Council, but not necessarily). Alicia asked the youth members of our Commission if anyone would be interested in joining the HSPC and forwarded a memo from the HSPC with more details.

Family Concerts for 2010: Meghan Moore suggested that we consider moving the dates of next year's Family Concerts until the end of June/beginning of July (instead of June only). June is a very hectic month with end of school activities. It was felt that attendance might increase if they were held late June and early July. However, the change of concert dates would affect the Movie at the Beach night. The start time of the movie was also discussed. It was decided that an early start (around 6:00 pm) is good for families with small children. More discussion about the concert dates will be held at our next meeting.

Weed Beach Playground: The Weed Beach playground is officially opened and is beautiful. The fence still needs to be installed. Personalized bricks are on order and will be installed later this summer or fall.

New Youth Commission event: Geoffrey Ball and Karen Brennan suggested that we add a new Youth Commission event for next year. It was asked that everyone come to the September meeting with an idea for a new event. Karen also suggested that the

commission members be given more responsibility in planning and executing events to lighten Alicia's work load.

Depot's 20th Anniversary: The Depot will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year and Alicia is on the planning committee for the celebration. The committee is trying to get in touch with all student governing board members and adult advisors who served during the past 20 years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Barston (for Angela M. Clark)